

EPA's Notes from July 26, 2016 "Concerned C8 Citizens" Meeting
Petersburgh, New York

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM at the Petersburg Veterans Memorial Hall located at 71 Main Street, Petersburg, N.Y. 12138.

In addition to Rensselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino, the following representatives from USEPA Region 2, NYSDOH, NYSDEC, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and Rensselaer County Health Department attended the meeting:

Larisa Romanowski, Public Affairs Specialist, USEPA Region 2
Mark Maddaloni, Toxicologist, USEPA Region 2
Pat Evangelista, Office of the Regional Administrator, USEPA Region 2
Thomas Gentile, Air Toxics Section Chief, Division of Air Resources, NYSDEC
Jim Quinn, Project Manager, NYSDEC Region 4
Keith Goertz, Regional Director, NYSDEC Region 4
Robert Swider, Regional Environmental Health Director, NYSDOH
Kenneth Bogdan, Bureau of Toxic Substance Assessment, NYSDOH
Dr. David Smith, Division of Animal Industry Director, New York State Department of Ag & Markets
Rich Elder, Rensselaer County Environmental Health Director
Maryfran Wachunas, Rensselaer County Public Health Director
Kathy Jimino, Rensselaer County Executive

Various updates related to the PFOA contamination and status of the landfill on Jones Hollow Road were provided to an audience of approximately 90 people and questions were answered.

Rensselaer County Health Department

Reported they collected 312 water samples from private wells from 266 homes (some homes sampled more than once). The PFOA concentration in these samples was presented as follows:

59 samples below 20ppt
35 samples above 20ppt and below 70ppt
55 samples between 70ppt and 1000ppt
15 samples greater than 1000ppt
148 samples at non-detect

33 POETS have been installed and are operational. An additional 33 POETS are in the process of being installed. The well water sampling program will be expanded with NYSDEC assistance. Anyone in the Town of Petersburg wishing to have their well sampled can call Rensselaer County Health Department at (518) 270-2655 and the request will be forwarded to NYSDEC for action.

NYSDEC

Reported their negotiations with Taconic Plastics are going slowly and how they believe the company will only be willing to do so much. Taconic will not commit to do any work related to the landfill or private wells below 70ppt. They are willing to perform investigation related to their facility and incurring the cost of POETS for private wells above 70ppt. Taconic has also agreed to pay for bottled water and its distribution. NYS has committed to paying for 6 months of residents' water bills.

NYSDOH

Reported Taconic paying for consultant to design and construct GAC system to address municipal drinking water contamination. NYSDOH recently commented on the design and a response to comments is expected week of August 8, 2016. GAC system expected to be operational by the end of October or November of 2016.

Serum testing of 190 people occurred on July 23, 2016 bringing the total number of people tested to 350-400. Results for 190 could take 2-4 weeks. No additional serum testing events are scheduled.

New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets

Reported they are developing a Qs and As document to be publicized soon.

The following points were made during the meeting's Qs and As session:

- Residents have significant concern related to the maintenance of the POETS on their private wells. Questions about frequency of testing and process for monitoring possible filter breakthrough of PFOA were not answered clearly or with specificity. NYSDEC committed to following-up by next meeting on August 16, 2016.
- A resident indicated she has never drank water from her private well and yet she has a blood serum level of over 200ppb. She is convinced her exposure is from air emissions from Taconic. NYSDEC indicated Taconic is meeting all stack emission requirements but will follow-up.
- Dr. David Smith of NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets indicated garden produce can be safely eaten. He also reminded folks that soil testing requests can be submitted to NYSDEC.
- Resident indicated her soil was sampled 3 months ago and results have yet to be provided. NYSDEC to follow-up.
- Dr. David Smith of NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets indicated cattle excrete PFOA very efficiently their PFOA half-life is 1.5 days. They should be held exposure-free for 21 days before slaughter. Chicken should be held exposure-free for 30 days before eggs should be used for consumption. Pet dogs and cats should also be provided bottled water or treated water.
- Suzanne Seymore, a Taconic Plastics retiree, indicated she has a blood serum level of PFOA of 759ppb but in her opinion the company was a good steward in expeditiously responding to process infractions as they were identified. She also inquired about the steps EPA took as it related to its dealings in 2004 with DuPont in West Virginia to protect public health there and elsewhere. EPA Region 2 to follow-up.
- David Engel mentioned to me privately he recently received a letter from Senator Gillibrand that he would share with us. He also explained that DuPont funded the C8 Study which I thought was helpful to the audience.

- NYSDOH has no plans to perform medical monitoring of individuals with elevated PFOA in their blood serum. The meeting facilitator noted that representatives of Mt. Sinai of NYC will be in Petersburg on July 29, 2016 to answer questions in an availability session format.
- Local attorney announced he would be filing a class action suit against Taconic on July 27, 2016 seeking medical monitoring.
- In response to question Mark Maddaloni effectively explained the derivation of EPA's health advisory for PFOA. The audience applauded.
- These meetings are held approximately on a monthly basis. Next meeting is to be held on August 16, 2016 at the same location. Emily Marpe, meeting organizer and facilitator, extended an invitation for Judith Enck to attend.